



San Antonio Independent School District

1702 N. Alamo Street, San Antonio, Texas 78215-1213

Telephone (210) 354-3209 Fax (210) 354-3158

Accountability, Technology, MIS, and Food & Child Nutrition Services

TO: **Principals**

FROM: Robert Alfaro, Sr., Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Technology Applications: TEKS Course for Students in Grade 6-8 Educational Settings**

DATE: January 5, 2004

BOARD OF EDUCATION

JULIAN H. TREVIÑO
President
JAMES HOWARD
Vice President
THOMAS C. LOPEZ
Secretary
CONNIE ROCHA
Assistant Secretary
MARY ESTHER BERNAL
Member
HARRY OLIVER
Member
ALEX TALAMANTEZ
Member
DR. RUBÉN D. OLIVÁREZ
Superintendent

TEA mandates that districts must ensure that sufficient time is provided for teachers to teach and for students to learn the essential knowledge and skills in technology applications. To ensure that SAISD students meet the Technology Applications TEKS (TA:TEKS for short), the Office of Instructional Technology Services has developed a comprehensive curriculum. This curriculum supports a one-semester middle school TA:TEKS course and is the culmination of a year's planning and hardware acquisition using the now defunct TIF grants.

The curriculum-present in the Curriculum Management System as well as the Scope and Sequence—is called **TA:TEKS Technology Integration** and can be implemented at grades sixth through eighth. It is composed of problem-based thematic units designed to capture the interest of grades 6-8 students. It also incorporates the principles found in *Capturing Kids' Hearts*. The material includes a curriculum guide, scope and sequence and teacher/student resources that focus on **problem based learning** and **information literacy**

These materials provide the impetus for teachers and grade 6-8 students to become proficient in the skills required by TA:TEKS and *No Child Left Behind* legislation. Implementation will ensure students develop the required technology skills. To guarantee successful development of these technology literacy strategies and skills among our students, the Office of Instructional Technology Services strongly recommends the establishment of a 1-semester Technology Applications TEKS course at every campus working with 6-8 students. Specifically, principals are encouraged to do the following:

- Use the District's **TA:TEKS Curriculum**—which includes the Macromedia Studio MX software purchased for all middle schools including the seven PreK-8 Academies.
- The course should be taught in a computer lab – mobile or fixed—equipped with a minimum of 20 computers with internet connectivity.
- The course should be offered at either the sixth or seventh grade so that students can apply their learned TA:TEKS in core content areas and develop proficiency by the end of the eighth grade. End of eighth grade proficiency is expected by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

- Additional Curriculum units would be developed with the help of the Office of Instructional Technology staff to enhance technology applications skills at all grade levels in all content areas.
- Professional development on the Macromedia Studio MX software issued to campuses will again be offered in January 2004 and February 2004. Implementation training using the TA:TEKS curriculum will also be offered in the Spring so that the designated teacher can start becoming familiar with the curriculum. This training will also be offered in a summer TA:TEKS Academy close to the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year.
- A TA:TEKS teacher, required for this implementation, does not need any special certifications. The teacher must have a valid teaching certificate, good technology skills, and must attend the required training for the TA:TEKS curriculum.
- Share a copy of your master schedule with the Office of Instructional Technology Services.
- For PreK-8 settings, it is recommended that a teacher be designated to receive professional development through a summer TA:TEKS Academy. After receiving professional development, this teacher would be responsible for integrating TA:TEKS Curriculum at the campus level.
- The schedule for TA:TEKS Academies, Macromedia Studio MX professional development will be found online at <http://itls.saisd.net/tateks> by January 5, 2004.

The Office of Instructional Technology has already begun contacting campus principals to schedule a meeting to discuss the implementation of this course at your campus in 2004-2005. The Technology Integration Coordinator and Facilitator responsible for your Area (shown below) will be setting up a meeting with you to discuss any scheduling and implementation questions you may have. At that time, you will receive a copy of the latest TA:TEKS Curriculum on CD-ROM. We urge you to also include your Campus Instructional Coordinator in this meeting; contacts are included below:

Area 1: Jim Baldoni (jbaldoni@saisd.net) and Lacey Gosch (lgosch@saisd.net)
 Area 2: Claude Ascolese (cascolese@saisd.net) and Greg Rodriguez (grodriguez4@saisd.net)
 Area 3: Sylvia Martinez (smartinez@saisd.net) and Tonya Mills (tmills@saisd.net)

Should you have any questions, please contact Miguel Guhlin in the Office of Instructional Technology at 527-1400.